

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides:

A method for evaluating the ability of a compound to inhibit the protoporphyrinogen oxidase activity, which comprises the steps of:

- (1) culturing a transformant expressing a protoporphyrinogen oxidase gene present in a DNA fragment in a medium containing substantially no protoheme compounds in each comparative system of the presence and absence of a test compound to measure a growth rate of the transformant under each condition, said transformant being resulted from a host cell deficient in the growing ability based on the protoporphyrinogen oxidase activity transformed with the DNA fragment in which a promoter functionable in the host cell and a protoporphyrinogen oxidase gene are operatively linked, and
- (2) determining the ability of the compound to inhibit the protoporphyrinogen oxidase activity by comparing the growth rates; and the like.

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